

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-6, 9-11 and 13 of the present application.

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed February 10, 2005 claims 1, 7, 8, 12 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,252,384 to Arai et al. (hereinafter, "Arai"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, as follows.

Independent claims 1, 7 and 14-16 are directed to a device for inhibiting fluctuation of power supply voltage supplied to a plurality of internal circuits or a method for inhibiting fluctuation of power supply voltage supplied to a plurality of circuits. Each of independent claims 1, 7 and 14-16 includes, among other features, a feature or step wherein phases of clock signals provided to internal circuits are adjusted so that fluctuation peaks in the power supply voltage produced when the internal circuits are operated are substantially offset by one another.

Applicants respectively submit that Arai neither discloses nor suggests such a step or feature.

The outstanding Office Action asserts that Arai discloses all of the features of claims 1, 7, 8, 12 and 14-16 by a CPU 9 connected to a DC power supply and controlled between sleep and operating states by the value of a stop clock signal applied thereto from a clock stop terminal 91, a current-value control terminal 121, a

control circuit 12, transistor 6, an operational amplifier 8, and a time constant terminal 122. The Office Action further asserts that Arai discloses a "clock signal control (9)". *See the Office Action of February 10, 2005, at p. 2.* However, Applicant has reviewed Arai in detail and has been unable to find any disclosure therein of a "clock signal control (9)".

Rather, Arai discloses a circuit and method for inhibiting a fluctuation in power-supply terminal voltage of a CPU 9 caused by a change in working current of the CPU 9 when the CPU 9 changes from a sleep state to an operating state or vice-versa. Current flowing through transistor 6 is controlled by control circuit 12 to cancel changes in a load current generated when the CPU 9 changes from the sleep state to the operating state or vice-versa. The stop-clock signal applied to the CPU via the stop-clock terminal 91 controls the CPU 9 between the sleep and operating states only. The stop clock control signal of Arai is not a clock signal for operating the CPU 9, and Applicant has been unable to find any reference to such a clock signal within the disclosure of Arai.

As noted above, the claimed invention includes a feature or step wherein phases of clock signals provided to internal circuits are adjusted so that fluctuation peaks in the power supply voltage produced when the internal circuits are operated are substantially offset by one another. Applicant respectfully submits that Arai neither discloses nor suggests adjusting phases of clock signals as recited in the claimed invention.

To qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, a single reference must teach, i.e., identically describe, each feature of a rejected claim. As explained above, Arai does not disclose or suggest each and every feature of independent claims 1, 7 and 14-16.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Aria does not anticipate independent claims 1, 7 and 14-16.

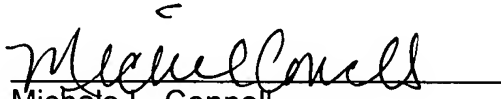
As claims 2-6 and 8-13 depend from claims 1 and 7, respectively, claims 2-6 and 8-13 are allowable for the same reasons as claims 1 and 7, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 7 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing docket number **108075-00117**

Respectfully submitted,


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